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R J. Hughes

University of Adelaide, rhughes@griffith.edu.au

M S. Geier

University of Adelaide

J L. Black

John L Black Consulting

A M. Tredrea

University of Sydney

S Diffey

NSW Industry & Investment, sdifhey@uow.edu.au

See next page for additional authors

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Abstract

Two experiments evaluated the apparent metabolisable energy (AME) values for cereal grains fed with and without a blend of xylanase and phytase enzyme products to broiler chickens. The first experiment involved 30 high screenings grains (10 wheats, 11 barleys, 3 triticales, and 6 sorghums). The second experiment involved 50 grains (20 wheats, 13 barleys, 3 triticales and 14 sorghums) donated by commercial companies throughout Australia. Each experiment included "connectivity" grains used in previous experiments that contributed to the AusScan near infrared reflectance (NIR) calibration database. The inclusion of "connectivity" grains (15 in Experiment 1 and 17 in Experiment 2) enabled data to be analysed statistically for valid comparison across many experiments conducted in the period 1998 to 2010. These grains were also fed with and without the blend of enzymes. In general, the results show that the enzyme blend improved AME values for some wheats and only one barley, and had little or no effect on other types of grain.

Keywords

cereal, grains, blend, high, xylanase, responsiveness, phytase, enzyme, products, commercial, screenings

Disciplines

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Authors

R J. Hughes, M S. Geier, J L. Black, A M. Tredrea, S Diffey, and S G. Nielsen

RESPONSIVENESS OF HIGH SCREENINGS AND COMMERCIAL CEREAL GRAINS TO A BLEND OF XYLANASE AND PHYTASE ENZYME PRODUCTS

R.J. HUGHES^{1,2}, M.S. GEIER^{1,2}, J.L. BLACK³, A.M. TREDREA⁴, S. DIFFEY⁵
and S.G. NIELSEN⁶

Summary

Two experiments evaluated the apparent metabolisable energy (AME) values for cereal grains fed with and without a blend of xylanase and phytase enzyme products to broiler chickens. The first experiment involved 30 high screenings grains (10 wheats, 11 barleys, 3 triticales, and 6 sorghums). The second experiment involved 50 grains (20 wheats, 13 barleys, 3 triticales and 14 sorghums) donated by commercial companies throughout Australia. Each experiment included “connectivity” grains used in previous experiments that contributed to the AusScan near infrared reflectance (NIR) calibration database. The inclusion of “connectivity” grains (15 in Experiment 1 and 17 in Experiment 2) enabled data to be analysed statistically for valid comparison across many experiments conducted in the period 1998 to 2010. These grains were also fed with and without the blend of enzymes. In general, the results show that the enzyme blend improved AME values for some wheats and only one barley, and had little or no effect on other types of grain.

I. INTRODUCTION

Black et al. (2009) described calibrations based on NIR spectroscopy for estimating the AME content and AME Intake Index of cereal grains for broiler chickens. The calibrations were developed from results obtained in the Premium Grains for Livestock Program. Updated NIR calibrations were reported by Black et al. (2010). These new calibrations included results from an extra 55 grains, comprising 30 high screenings grains and 25 grains donated by industry. This greatly improved the ability to predict values for unknown grains and the accuracy of prediction. Further improvements are anticipated when results from an additional 25 industry grains are included in the database.

Two large AME experiments funded by RIRDC Chicken Meat were required to evaluate a total of 80 grains, which included 30 high screenings grains (Experiment 1) and 50 industry grains (Experiment 2). All grains were fed with and without a blend of xylanase and phytase enzyme products. This paper describes the responses in grain AME to enzyme products.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The AME values of grains were determined across a series of conventional energy balance studies involving measurements of feed intake and excreta output as described by Mollah et al. (1983) with minor modifications, and subsequent measurement of gross energy values of feed and excreta by bomb calorimetry. High screenings and other weather damaged samples (total 30 comprising 10 wheats, 11 barleys, 3 triticales, and 6 sorghums) collected as part of a Pork CRC project were examined in Experiment 1. The second experiment involved 50 grains (20 wheats, 13 barleys, 3 triticales and 14 sorghums) donated by commercial companies

¹ SARDI, Pig and Poultry Production Institute (PPPI), Roseworthy, SA 5371

² School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, University of Adelaide, Roseworthy, SA 5371

³ John L Black Consulting, Warrimoo, NSW 2774

⁴ University of Sydney, Plant Breeding Institute, Narrabri, NSW 2390

⁵ NSW Industry & Investment, Orange, NSW 2800

⁶ Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2678

throughout Australia. Experiment 1 required four batches of day-old feather-sexed broiler chickens, while Experiment 2 used eight batches. Each batch was raised in floor pens on a commercial broiler diet to 22 days of age and then transferred in single-sex groups of five to metabolism cages in controlled temperature rooms. Air temperature was maintained at 26°C at the start of the 7-day experiment and lowered daily until it was 23°C at the end. Experimental diets contained grain, casein, dicalcium phosphate, limestone, DL-methionine, mineral and vitamin premix, salt, and choline chloride. All grains were fed with and without a blend of xylanase (Porzyme 93010 at 50 g/tonne for wheat, barley and triticale, or Rovabio Excel at 200 g/tonne for sorghum) and phytase (Phyzyme TPT at 50 g/tonne) enzyme products. Dietary treatments were replicated four times (two cages of males and two cages of females). Cold-pressed diets were fed for seven days. The first three days enabled the chickens to adapt to the feeds. During the following four days, all excreta were collected and dried at 85°C. Feed intake was measured during the adaptation and collection phases of the study. Birds were weighed at the start and end of the 7-day period. Dry matter contents of samples of pelleted and milled feeds were measured. Gross energy values of dried excreta and milled feeds were measured with a Parr isoperibol bomb calorimeter. AME of the grain was calculated by subtracting from the total energy intake the energy contribution of casein, which was assumed to be 20.1 MJ/kg dry matter (Annison et al., 1994).

III. RESULTS

In Experiment 1, there were significant 2-way interactions between grain type and enzyme ($P < 0.001$) and grain type and sex ($P < 0.05$) on AME values for high screenings grains (Table 1). The effects of enzyme and sex on individual wheats are summarised in Figure 1. The proportion of grains passing through a 2 mm sieve averaged 17% and ranged from 1.4% for wheat 1753 and 53.1% for wheat 1762 in Figure 1. Regression analysis indicated AME values for grain declined by about 0.2 MJ/kg for each 10% rise in screenings, in both male and female chickens, when given enzymes. In the absence of enzyme, the responses to screenings were highly variable, particularly for male chickens.

Table 1 Effects of interactions between grain type and enzyme, and grain type and sex on AME (MJ/kg dry matter) values for high screenings grains (Experiment 1). Effects of enzyme or sex within a grain type are not significantly different ($P > 0.05$) when followed by the same letter

Enzyme	Barley	Sorghum	Triticale	Wheat
-	12.72 a	16.09 a	14.69 a	14.00 b
+	12.84 a	16.24 a	14.76 a	14.88 a
Sex	Barley	Sorghum	Triticale	Wheat
Female	12.98 a	16.23 a	14.74 a	14.71 a
Male	12.57 b	16.10 a	14.70 a	14.15 b

In Experiment 2, there was a significant 3-way interaction between individual grains, enzyme and sex. Enzymes improved AME for only one sample of barley fed to male chickens. The effects of enzyme and sex on individual wheats are summarised in Figure 2

The soluble non-starch polysaccharide (NSP) values (in g/kg dry matter) for wheat ranged from 9.8 for wheat 1876 to 15.2 for wheat 1860 in Figure 2, and averaged 12.1. These soluble NSP values are considerably lower than 20 g/kg dry matter normally found in "low AME" wheats (Choct et al., 1996). The insoluble non-starch polysaccharide values (in g/kg dry matter) for wheat ranged from 70 for wheat 1861 to 115 for wheat 1878 in Figure 2, and

averaged 83. Regression analysis indicated negligible change in AME values for grains due to soluble NSP level, however, for each 10g/kg increase in insoluble NSP, AME declined by about 0.3 and 0.4 MJ/kg dry matter, respectively, for males and females given enzymes.

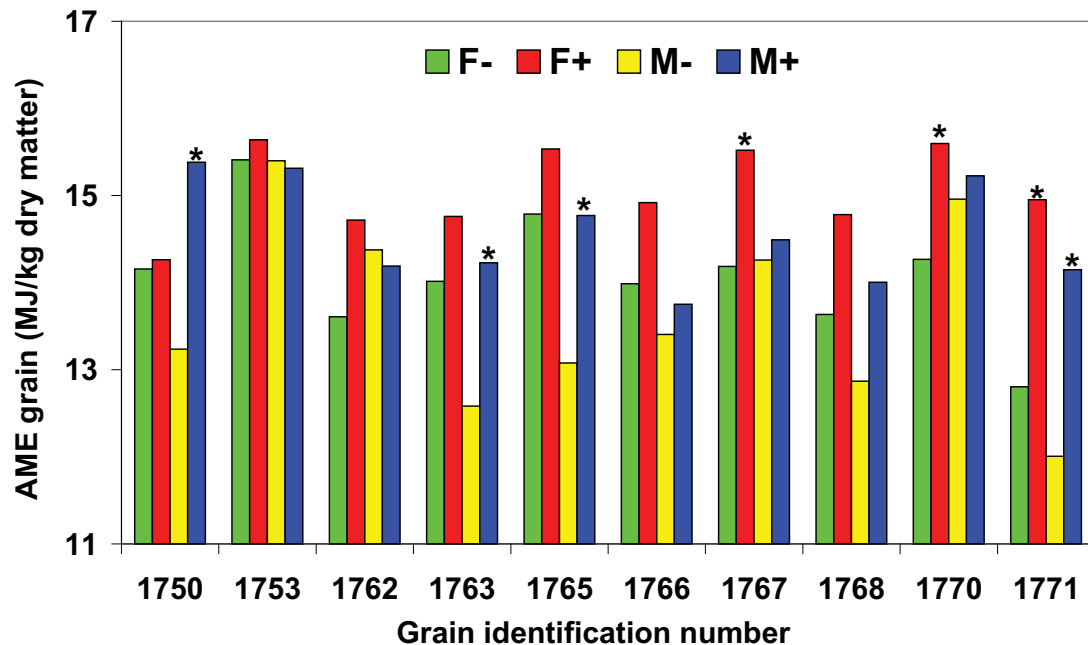


Figure 1 AME (MJ/kg dry matter) values for individual high screenings wheats fed with and without the xylanase and phytase enzyme blend to male and female broiler chickens (22-29 days of age) in Experiment 1. An asterisk represents a significant effect ($P < 0.05$) of enzyme within sex.

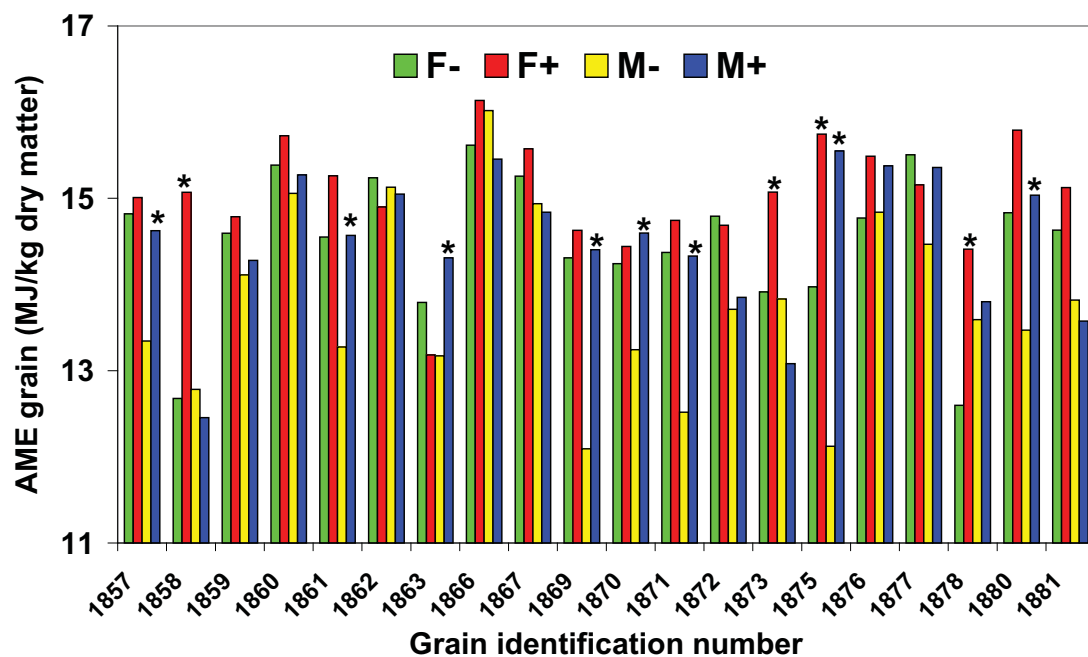


Figure 2 AME (MJ/kg dry matter) values for individual wheats donated by commercial companies and fed with and without the xylanase and phytase enzyme blend to male and female broiler chickens (22-29 days of age) in Experiment 2. An asterisk represents a significant effect ($P < 0.05$) of enzyme within sex.

IV. DISCUSSION

The results of both experiments showed that the blend of xylanase and phytase enzymes improved AME values for some, but not all wheats, and only one sample of barley. Other types of grain were unaffected. Variable responses of different wheats to enzymes were observed in high screenings grains with presumably higher than usual concentrations of soluble and insoluble NSP. Increasing concentrations of insoluble NSP, but not soluble NSP, depressed AME values for wheat sourced from commercial feed mills. The lack of response to this enzyme blend in some wheats (high screenings and industry-sourced) probably reflects differences in cell wall matrices in grains and the way NSP are bound to other cell wall components (Choct et al., 1996), with net effects of xylanase and phytase in the enzyme blend differing between grains. These experiments were not designed to distinguish between the effects of xylanase and phytase components of the blend, but the respective effects are likely to be additive in wheat diets (Cowieson and Bedford, 2009).

The results of both experiments show that males fed barley and wheat can have lower AME values than females, whereas there were no differences between males and females given triticale and sorghum. These results are consistent with earlier work by Hughes et al. (2001) who found similar reductions in AME of wheat and barley fed to male chickens, but no differences when fed triticale or sorghum. This phenomenon may indicate that the β -glucan and arabinoxylan NSP affect males more so than females. Hughes (2003) conjectured that sex differences may have arisen through establishment of different gut microflora profiles as a result of differential flow of undigested nutrients into the hindgut acting as differential growth media for bacteria, or by exchange of chemical messages between host tissue and gut microflora. These possibilities warrant further investigation.

In conclusion, the results show that the particular blend of xylanase and phytase enzymes improved AME values for some, but not all wheats, and only one sample of barley. Other types of grain were unaffected by enzymes. Significant responses to enzymes in wheat diets were not always associated with high NSP levels.

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